

S/N 09/512,894

Attorney Ref. No.: 33-759

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 29, 38, 64, 65 and 70 without prejudice, add new claims 73 and 74 (now with underlining) and amend claims 19 and 21 to read as follows (the attached appendix shows copies of the amended claims with markings showing the amendments):

19. (Twice Amended) In a highway crash cushion of the type comprising a diaphragm and at least one energy absorbing element disposed adjacent the diaphragm, the improvement comprising:

a support structure comprising a single rail assembly disposed under the crash cushion and comprising a first end and a second end, the support structure being anchored to a support surface between the first and second ends and being substantially centered with respect to the diaphragm,

a guide coupled to the diaphragm and substantially centered with respect to the diaphragm,

the guide mounted to slide along the support structure and to restrict movement of the diaphragm with respect to the support structure in at least one lateral direction,

the diaphragm coupled to a leg assembly extending beneath the diaphragm on both sides of the rail assembly to support the diaphragm on the support surface.

21. (Twice Amended) In a highway crash cushion of the type comprising a diaphragm and at least one energy absorbing element disposed adjacent the diaphragm, the improvement comprising:

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a support structure comprising a single rail assembly disposed under crash cushion and anchored to a support surface, said single rail assembly substantially centered with respect to the diaphragm,

a guide coupled to the diaphragm and substantially centered with respect to the diaphragm,

the guide mounted to slide along the support structure and to restrict movement of the diaphragm with respect to the support structure in at least one lateral direction, the guide mounted to slide along the support structure without extending below a lower surface of the support structure,

the diaphragm coupled to a leg assembly extending beneath the diaphragm on both sides of said rail assembly to support the diaphragm on the support surface.

73. (New) The invention of Claim 71 wherein the first and second rail assembly elements comprise respective downwardly-facing surfaces.

74. (New) The invention of Claim 71 wherein the first and second elements comprise respective horizontally-extending flanges.